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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors:

VAUDREY et al.

Serial No.:

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PCT/US99/08055

PCT

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For:

USER ADJUSTABLE VOLUME

CONTROL THAT ACCOMMODATES HEARING (As Amended in the PCT International Search and Examination

Phase)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11, 18-27, 35, 45-48, 50 and 52 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

36. (Amended) [The system according to claim according to claim 35, further] An audio system for optimizing [a] playing of an audio program, which includes a preferred audio signal and a remaining audio signal, for end users, which includes both hearing impaired and non-hearing impaired listeners, comprising: